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261034Z Aug 05

ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	USNW-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DNI-00
	DODE-00	DOFE-00	PERC-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00
	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00	DCP-00	NRC-00	NSAE-00
	OES-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	EVR-00	BEG-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
	G-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/001W			

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2405  
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHINGTON DC  
HQ USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 001224

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/S MUNCY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/25/2015

TAGS: [PINR](#) [PGOV](#) [BC](#)

SUBJECT: MFA AND OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT SHUFFLE SENIOR  
STAFF

REF: GABORONE 346

Classified By: CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. LOIS AROIAN FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) A  
ND (D)

[11.](#) (C) SUMMARY: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is in the midst of rotating several of its senior officers into new positions. This movement will bring new incumbents to the offices of the Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary, and Director for Multilateral Affairs. Despite his earlier intention to retire, the current Permanent Secretary at the MFA Ernest Mpofu is taking over as the new Permanent Secretary for Political Affairs in the Office of the President. This suggests that the President and Vice-President place considerable confidence in Mpofu, his personal differences with Foreign Minister Merafhe notwithstanding. Given his somewhat sympathetic perspective on our Zimbabwe policy, this is a welcome development. END SUMMARY.

[12.](#) (C) Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ernest Mpofu, who had earlier indicated his intention to retire soon, is slated to replace Ms. Tuelonyana Ditlhabi-Oliphant as Permanent Secretary for Political Affairs in the Office of the

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President by the end of September. Mrs. Oliphant will return to the MFA and take up an assignment as Ambassador to Zambia. According to the Americas Desk Officer in the MFA Mr. Julian Mokgatle, this shift is because Mpofu and Foreign Minister Merafhe "are not on speaking terms." The breakdown in relations between Mpofu and Merafhe had become so complete, he said, that the Office of the President felt compelled to intervene.

[13.](#) (U) Charles Thembani Ntwaagae, former Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs (1996-2000) and Permanent

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Representative to the UN in Geneva (2001-2005), is expected to replace Mpofu as Permanent Secretary. Ntwaagae was the Coordinator of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group in 2003, the year of the failed WTO talks in Cancun. He was also Chairman of the Africa Group in the last quarter of that same year and Chairman of the Commonwealth Developing Country Ambassadors Group earlier in 2005. Ntwaagae participated in an International Visitors Program on "US Foreign Policy Decision Making" in 1999 during his stint as Deputy Permanent Secretary. Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ntwaagae was CEO of the National Environment Secretariat (January 1995 - September 1996). His previous experience included assignments as Deputy Permanent Secretary of Local Government, Lands, and Housing (January 1993 - January 1995), Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary in the same ministry (August 1992 - January 1993), District Commissioner in the South East District (November 1990 - August 1992) and in the Kgalagadi District (May 1988 - November 1990).

14. (U) Ntwaagae was born May 6, 1953. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Public Administration from the University of Botswana and Swaziland in 1977. Between 1983 and 1985, Ntwaagae completed a Masters of Public Administration at Pennsylvania State University. He is married to Elizabeth Mmasello Ntwaagae and has three children.

15. (U) Ntwaagae's deputy likely will be Mustaq Ahmed Moorad, a Motswana of South Asian origin, who is coming from Addis Ababa where he opened Botswana's mission to Ethiopia and the African Union in 2000. He was also accredited to Ethiopia, Egypt, Libya, Kuwait, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Moorad's previous assignments included one as Counselor (equivalent to DCM) in Washington DC in the mid-1990s and Spokesperson of the MFA in the late 1990s.

16. (U) Botswana's Ambassador to the EU and Belgium, Sasara Chasala George is expected to return to Gaborone in the coming weeks to become the Director of Multilateral Affairs. George has represented Botswana in Brussels and was accredited as Ambassador to France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands since 1996. Previously he served as Botswana's High Commissioner to Zambia, Chief of Protocol and, in the early 1990s, Spokesperson of the MFA. His other assignments included London and Stockholm.

17. (C) Ms. Tshenolo Modise, who recently left the position of Director for Multilateral Affairs, will exchange desks with George. As Director for Multilateral Affairs, Modise

was the MFA's point person on counter-terrorism issues and participated in a committee that drew up terms of reference for a new counter-terrorism mechanism within the GOB. Her previous assignments include New York and South Africa. She is married to Mr. Modise Modise, Permanent Secretary for Development Affairs in the Office of the President, and her son is pursuing a bachelors degree in the US.

18. (C) COMMENT: Mpofu's deferment of retirement is a welcome development since he was instrumental in quietly turning off some earlier discontent within the Cabinet regarding the IBB transmitting station in Selebi-Phikwe. Mpofu is also among the senior personnel who tend to be understanding of our position regarding the Mugabe regime. Given his earlier indications of imminent retirement, his transfer to the Office of the President suggests that the President and Vice President repose considerable trust in him. It is also worth noting that MFA personnel have complained that the Office of the President tends to treat foreign policy formulation largely as its preserve. Although none of these personnel changes has been officially announced yet, it has been known for weeks that Mpofu was moving to the President's office, and contacts at the MFA have independently confirmed this information.

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